



WEM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1945.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1945. The Minister of Health has directed that the report be prepared on the lines of that for 1944 so it will not assume its pre-war comprehensiveness.

The report includes notes by the Sanitary Inspector on matters with which he is most particularly concerned; for his co-operation and help during the year I wish to express my thanks.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

L. WILSON EVANS.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office held.	Whole or Part Time.
L. Wilson Evans.	M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	Part.
A. P. Roberts.	A.M.Inst.B.E., C.R.S.I.	Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.	Whole.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1945.

Population	10430			
Births.		M.	F.	Total
	Legitimate	85	86	171
	Illegitimate	10	8	18
	Totals	95	94	189
Birth Rate per 1000 population				18.1
Birth Rate per 1000 population England and Wales.				16.1

Still Births	Legitimate	M.	F.	Total
		-	2	2
	Illegitimate	-	1	1
Totals		-	3	3
Still Birth Rate per 1000 population				0.29
Still Birth Rate per 1000 population England and Wales.				0.46.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Legitimate	M.	F.	Total.
		1	2	3
	Illegitimate	-	1	1
Totals		1	3	4

Infant Mortality rate per 1000 live births.	21
Infant Mortality rate per 1000 live births England & Wales.	46

	M.	F.	Total	
Deaths.	58	56	114	
Death Rate per 1000 population				10.9
Death Rate per 1000 population England and Wales.				11.4

Deaths from Measles.	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 yrs.	Nil.
Maternal Deaths.	Nil

Chief Causes of Death.

	M.	F.
Heart Disease	15	19
Cancer	9	7
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	7	4
Pneumonia	5	3
Violence	6	1
Bronchitis	2	5
Tuberculosis	3	3
Nephritis	2	1

It was stated last year that the vital statistics showed a satisfactory state of the public health and since almost all the figures differ only by a very slight degree from those of last year the same favourable picture is presented this year.

The population is estimated as forty less. There were 3 fewer births; there was one less infant death which was already a very low figure; there were four fewer deaths, no deaths from infectious disease and for the seventh consecutive year no mother died as a result of child birth. Over this period there were about 1400 births, which is a fine record for the maternity and midwifery services in the district.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

Cases notified during the year.

Cerebro-spinal Fever 1; Diphtheria (Non-civilian) 1; Dysentery 5 (Non-civilian 4); Erysipelas 1; Measles 69 (Non-civilian 2); Scarlet Fever 6; Whooping Cough 27; Puerperal Pyrexia 2; Ophthalmia Neonatorum 1.

Ages	Under 0-1.		1-3.		3-5.		5-10.		10-15.		15-25.		25-45.		45-65		65 & Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Over
Cerebrospinal-																	
Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1 -
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1 -
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	1 4 1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	- 1
Measles	1	1	-	2	5	3	2	8	9	13	2	12	3	6	1	1	- 23 46
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	2	1 - 6 3
Whooping																	
Cough	-	-	-	2	1	5	6	3	4	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	- 11 16
Scarlet																	
Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	- 3 3
	1	1	-	4	6	8	9	13	14	19	3	13	8	7	6	1	1 3 1 1 49 69

Civilian Cases removed to Isolation Hospital - Scarlet Fever 2.

There was not an excessive amount of Infectious Disease during the year. There were more cases of Measles and Whooping Cough. There was a considerable reduction in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and fewer cases of Pneumonia notified. This is the third consecutive year that there were no cases of Diphtheria amongst children under 15 years. The Measles were of a comparatively mild form and there were no deaths.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

	Under 5 years.	5-15 years.	Total.
Number of children who completed the full course of immunisation during 1945.	124	37	161
Estimated number of children in the District at December 31st. 1945	883	1520	2403
Percentage of children considered to be immunised at December 31st. 1945.	44%	71%	

There was a slight increase in the percentage of children under 5 years, owing to an increase in the number immunised by private practitioners under your Council's arrangements. There were slightly fewer children between 5 and 15 years immunised during the year but the percentage immunised is considerably larger owing to a decrease of 350 in the estimated population for that age group caused probably by the return home of evacuated children.

Tuberculosis.

	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
New cases.	4	-	8	2
Transfers from other Districts.	2	-	-	-
Deaths	2	1	-	1
Admitted to Sanatorium or Hospital.	3	2	-	1
Four of the non-respiratory cases were under 5 years and 4 were between 5 and 10 years.				

Number of cases on Register at December 31st., 1945.

Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
17	13	19	19
30		38	

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis of both forms was the same as last year. The greater proportion of non-respiratory to respiratory cases noted in previous reports is maintained, of the 10 cases notified 8 were children under 10 years of age.

Water Supplies.

Unsatisfactory samples of water from the wells supplying Council Houses at Edstaston, Wixhill, Coton, Tilstock and Shawbury were reported during the year. The Council decided to have the wells cleaned out and the inside of the walls lined with cement to reduce the degree of pollution. These are shallow wells in the gardens of the houses and it is unlikely that they can yield a good supply of water.

In furtherance of the scheme to supply the district with a piped supply of water the Council is employing a geologist to report upon the best means of obtaining supplies for the area. The Southern part of the district is included in an area which should yield considerable good underground supplies but other parts are less favourably situated and it may be necessary to go outside your district to provide them with a sufficient and wholesome water.

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Sewage.

With the provision of piped water supplies the need for sewerage villages is likely to arise and this has been recognised by the Government in including sewage schemes, due to new or increased water supplies, to qualify for a grant from the sum of money allocated under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewage Act.

The village of Prees is a case where a piped water supply has created problems of drainage, and when water is available the use of earth closets and privies must be considered an inadequate method of dealing with excreta where there is a considerable congregation of houses and in some cases insufficient land for its disposal. About 12 houses have a water carriage system of drainage but the treatment, in at least some cases, is inefficient, with the result that there is pollution of the brook which flows through the lower end of the village. A sewerage system for the village would be a benefit to its inhabitants.

Of the 3004 houses in the district about 260 have the sewage dealt with in septic tanks or cesspools. The rest have pail, earth closets or privies.

Housing.

Plans and sites for 76 of the 80 houses for the first years programme had been approved by the Ministry of Health by the end of the year.

Hobhouse Report. Housing Survey.

1750 houses had been inspected and recorded by the end of the year. Information as to the categories into which they will be grouped is not yet available.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.Water

Unsatisfactory samples were taken from Edstaston, Coton, Tilstock, and Grove Cottages, all being Council Houses.

Owing to shortage of labour, I found it impossible to have the wells emptied, and cleaned out. These wells were all thoroughly inspected in December last and work sanctioned by the Council has recently been carried out at the above places. The water to Clive village has given trouble during the year, intermittent supplies have been frequent. This is a private supply, and improvement has recently been made to it.

Meat Inspection.

Regular fortnightly visits have been made to the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, Whitchurch, and the following animals have been inspected.

CATTLE

192

SHEEP

512

The following carcasses and organs were found unfit for human consumption.

12 Beasts Livers condemned (Fluke)
 1 Lamb, black and high blood content.
 2 Beasts and all offal (Tb)
 1 Head and Tongue (Tb)

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Housing.

94 Housing inspections were made during the year. One case of overcrowding at Thixall where five people were living in two rooms was reported to the Council, but no alternative accommodation has been obtained.

Two houses at Coton were found unfit for occupation, and have now changed owners, and are being modernised for the owner to occupy the dwelling.

N.A.A.F.I. CANTEENS.

The service camps have been frequently inspected and large quantities of food found to be unfit for human consumption.

A list of all food certified as unfit is kept.

PLANS.

Plans for 4 cowsheds, 1 dairy and repairs to two houses have been submitted to the Council and approved during the year.

RURAL WORKERS ACTS 1936 - 39

Two applications were received and granted for financial assistance under the above acts.

NUISANCES. No statutory notices were served for the abatement of nuisances. 12 were reported to the Council, but 64 nuisances were abated when owners had been informed by personal visits, or letter.

BUGS & FLEAS. Rooms which are infested with bugs and fleas are sprayed with a strong disinfectant and sulphur candles placed in the room and sealed. Tenants are supplied with disinfectant and are advised to strip the paper off the walls, and wash all walls and floors with hot water to which has been added disinfectant.

RATS.

Rodine is available and given out in the various parishes.

With the exception of agricultural buildings no major infestation was reported.

MILK.

The number of producers of milk registered is 518. 162 inspections were made and in most cases improvements were necessary and are being dealt with as quickly as materials are found, also when labour is obtained.

Several cases were brought to my notice of producers neglect to lime wash, but the reason given is shortage of labour.

Five new cowsheds were erected during the year.

